



Vaughn Branch Invasive Species Management Frankfort, KY

February 2022 - September 2023

On February 9th, 2022, EcoGro began work for Woods & Water Land Trust on management of invasive brush within a remote section of Vaughn Branch Nature Preserve. Most of this protected land is a steep ravine descending to an old ox-bow meander cut by the Kentucky river. Although volunteers had accomplished significant amount of work by hand pulling weeds in more accessible and sensitive areas, we were tasked with tough plants on tough terrain. Woody invasive species (including bush honeysuckle, privet, multiflora rose, and tree of heaven) were targeted during the dormant season to protect spring ephemeral wildflowers. First, unwanted species were cut down to the stump and treated with a concentrated application of a systemic herbicide formulated specifically for trees and shrubs. Our crew worked for 3 days covering approximately 3.5 acres of the mountainous parcel of land.

Our second visit was April and May 2022, when living plants had leafed out and easy to see the green leaves among dead stems. The team focused on foliar applications of herbicide to the target sprouts from previously cut stumps as well as short plants that had not been cut. This herbicide mix was another selective herbicide with less impact to native grasses and sedges. Our crew covered the same area in 3 days, focusing on the areas most dense with invasive coverage.

The third visit came in September of 2023. Again, the timing was a period when many of the invasive plants were still green and growing, yet after sensitive native plants had already gone dormant for the season. This allowed for a foliar application of selective herbicide to invasive plants, while avoiding damage to desirable native plants. EcoGro provided GPS data to show areas covered and photos to document before/after conditions.



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